

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 90 (Cancelled).

Claim 91 (Previously Presented): A snowmobile comprising:

a chassis;

at least one ski coupled to the chassis by a suspension so that the ski is pivotable about a steering axis;

a shell defining a chamber fluidly communicating with an engine of the snowmobile;

the shell fixed to a front portion the chassis and extending away from the chassis in a forward direction; and

wherein the shell is disposed forward of the steering axis.

Claim 92 (Currently Amended): The snowmobile of claim 91 [[1]], wherein the shell defines a plurality of channels.

Claim 93 (Currently Amended): The snowmobile of claim 92 [[2]], wherein at least one of the channels is dimensioned to accept a control arm of the suspension.

Claim 94 (Currently Amended): The snowmobile of claim 91 [[1]], further including a hood rotatably supported by the shell.

Claim 95 (Currently Amended): The snowmobile of claim 94 [[4]], wherein the shell has sufficient rigidity to support the weight of the hood when the hood is in an open position

Claim 96 (Currently Amended): The snowmobile of claim 91 [[1]], wherein the shell has sufficient flexibility to deflect during a collision for absorbing energy from the collision and for

decelerating the snowmobile in a controlled fashion so as to protect the rider from rapid deceleration.

Claim 97 (Currently Amended): The snowmobile of claim 91 [[1]], where the chassis includes a shock tower defining an aperture sized to receive a conduit fluidly communicating with a chamber defined by the shell.

Claim 98 (Currently Amended): The snowmobile of claim 91 [[1]], wherein the shell includes a generally curved outer surface for gliding over deep snow.

Claim 99 (Currently Amended): The snowmobile of claim 98 [[8]], wherein the generally curved outer surface comprises a generally convex surface.

Claim 100 (Previously Presented): A snowmobile comprising:

- a chassis;

- a shell fixed to a front portion the chassis and extending away from the chassis in a forward direction;

- a hood rotatably supported by the shell;

- the shell defining a chamber fluidly communicating with an engine of the snowmobile;

- the hood including an outer wall and an inner wall;

- the walls of the hood defining a plenum; and

- the plenum fluidly communicating with the chamber defined by the shell at least when the hood is in a closed position.

Claim 101 (Currently Amended): The snowmobile of claim 100 [[10]], wherein the chamber defined by the shell may be accessed via an opening in the shell when the hood is in an open position.

Claim 102 (Currently Amended): The snowmobile of claim 100 [[10]], wherein a longitudinal axis of the plenum and a longitudinal axis of a throttle body of the snowmobile are generally parallel to one another.

Claim 103 (Currently Amended): The snowmobile of claim 100 [[10]], wherein a longitudinal axis of the plenum and a longitudinal axis of a throttle body of the snowmobile intersect to define an angle.

Claim 104 (Currently Amended): The snowmobile of claim 103 [[13]], wherein the angle is an acute angle.

Claim 105 (Currently Amended): The snowmobile of claim 100 [[10]], wherein air enters the engine via an air flow path extending through the plenum and the chamber; and
wherein the air flow path has a length greater than a length of the hood of the snowmobile.

Claim 106 (Currently Amended): The snowmobile of claim 100 [[10]], further including a flexible coupling interposed between the shell and the engine.

Claim 107 (Currently Amended): The snowmobile of claim 106 [[16]], wherein the flexible coupling comprises an elastomeric material.

Claim 108 (Currently Amended): The snowmobile of claim 106 [[16]], wherein the flexible coupling comprises a plurality of convolutions.

Claim 109 (Currently Amended): The snowmobile of claim 106 [[16]], wherein the flexible coupling comprises a bellows.

Claim 110 (Currently Amended): The snowmobile of claim 100 [[10]], further comprising at least one ski coupled to the chassis by a suspension such that the ski is rotatable about a steering axis; and

wherein the shell is disposed forward of the steering axis.

Claim 111 (Currently Amended): The snowmobile of claim 100 [[10]], wherein the plenum communicates with an inlet disposed proximate a rider area of the snowmobile.

Claim 112 (Currently Amended): The snowmobile of claim 100 [[10]], wherein the shell has sufficient rigidity ~~ridgity~~ to support the weight of a hood of the snowmobile when the hood is in an open position

Claim 113 (Currently Amended): The snowmobile of claim 100 [[10]], where the chassis includes a shock tower defining an aperture sized to receive a conduit fluidly communicating with the chamber of the shell.

Claim 114 (Currently Amended): The snowmobile of claim 100 [[10]], wherein the shell includes a generally curved outer surface for gliding over deep snow.

Claim 115 (Currently Amended): The snowmobile of claim 114 [[24]], wherein the generally curved outer surface comprises a generally convex surface.

Claim 116 (Previously Presented): A snowmobile comprising:

a chassis;

a shell fixed to a front portion the chassis and extending away from the chassis in a forward direction;

an engine coupled to the chassis for propelling the snowmobile; and

the shell defining a chamber fluidly communicating with the engine via a flexible coupling interposed between the shell and the engine.

Claim 117 (Currently Amended): The snowmobile of claim 116 [[26]], further including a hood having an outer wall and an inner wall; and

the walls of the hood defining a plenum communicating with the chamber.

Claim 118 (Currently Amended): The snowmobile of claim 117 [[27]], wherein a longitudinal axis of the plenum and a longitudinal axis of a throttle body of the snowmobile are generally parallel to one another.

Claim 119 (Currently Amended): The snowmobile of claim 117 [[27]], wherein a longitudinal axis of the plenum and a longitudinal axis of a throttle body of the snowmobile intersect to define an angle.

Claim 120 (Currently Amended): The snowmobile of claim 119 [[29]], wherein the angle is an acute angle.

Claim 121 (Currently Amended): The snowmobile of claim 116 [[26]], wherein air enters the engine via an air flow path extending through the plenum and the chamber; and
wherein the air flow path has a length greater than a length of the hood of the snowmobile.

Claim 122 (Currently Amended): The snowmobile of claim 116 [[26]], wherein the plenum communicates with an inlet disposed proximate a rider area of the snowmobile.

Claim 123 (Currently Amended): The snowmobile of claim 116 [[26]], where the chassis includes a shock tower defining an aperture sized to receive a conduit fluidly communicating with the chamber of the shell.

Claim 124 (Currently Amended): The snowmobile of claim 116 [[26]], wherein the shell includes a generally curved outer surface for gliding over deep snow.

Claim 125 (Currently Amended): The snowmobile of claim 124 [[34]], wherein the generally curved outer surface comprises a generally convex surface.